

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) Within a digital acquisition device with a built in flash unit, a method of perfecting the exposure of an acquired digital image using face detection in said acquired image, comprising:
 - (a) identifying a plurality of groups of pixels that correspond to plurality images of faces within said digitally acquired image, and determining corresponding image attributes to said group of pixels, said groups of pixels of faces being given a certain weight based on a distance of said groups of pixels to the device;
 - (b) performing an analysis of said corresponding attributes of said groups of pixels;
 - (c) determining to activate said built-in flash unit based on said analysis; and
 - (d) determining an intensity of said built-in flash unit based on said analysis.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising an initial step of calculating image attributes on an entire said acquired digital image and comparing said image attributes to said image attributes said group of pixels.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, said image attributes comprising exposure.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, said exposure being calculated as a function of one or more parameters including aperture, speed, gain, or relative sensitivity, or combinations thereof.

5. (Original) A method of perfecting the exposure of acquired digital images using face detection as recited in claim 1, said groups of pixels of faces being given a certain weight based on weight criteria.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) A method of perfecting the exposure of acquired digital images using face detection as recited in claim 5, said weight criteria being calculated based on relative sizes of said groups of pixels.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising performing a pre-flash based on said calculated flash intensity to determine whether said analysis is accurate.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising performing a second analysis based on said pre-flash.

10 – 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) Within a digital acquisition device with a built in flash unit, one or more processor readable storage devices having processor readable code embodied thereon, said processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method of perfecting the exposure of an acquired digital image using face

detection in said acquired image, comprising: (a) identifying a plurality of groups of pixels that correspond to plurality images of faces within said digitally acquired image, and determining corresponding image attributes to said group of pixels said groups of pixels of faces being given a certain weight based on a distance of said groups of pixels to the device; (b) performing an analysis of said corresponding attributes of said groups of pixels; (c) determining to activate said built-in flash unit based on said analysis; and (d) determining an intensity of said built-in flash unit based on said analysis.

17. (Original) The one or more storage devices of claim 16, the method further comprising an initial step of calculating image attributes on an entire said acquired digital image and comparing said image attributes to said image attributes said group of pixels.

18. (Original) The one or more storage devices of claim 17, said image attributes comprising exposure.

19. (Original) The one or more storage devices of claim 18, said exposure being calculated as a function of one or more parameters including aperture, speed, gain, or relative sensitivity, or combinations thereof.

20. (Original) The one or more storage devices of claim 16, the method of perfecting the exposure of acquired digital images using face detection including said groups of pixels of faces being given a certain weight based on weight criteria.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The one or more storage devices of claim 20, the method of perfecting the exposure of acquired digital images using face detection including said weight criteria being calculated based on relative sizes of said groups of pixels.

23. (Original) The one or more storage devices of claim 16, the method further comprising performing a pre-flash based on said calculated flash intensity to determine whether said analysis is accurate.

24. (Original) The one or more storage devices of claim 23, the method further comprising performing a second analysis based on said pre-flash.

25 – 30 (Canceled)

31. (New) Within a digital acquisition device with a built in flash unit, a method of perfecting the exposure of an acquired digital image using face detection in said acquired image, comprising:

(a) identifying a plurality of groups of pixels that correspond to plurality images of faces within said digitally acquired image, and determining corresponding image attributes to said group of pixels, the identifying effected using a face detection technique employing rectangular features;

(b) performing an analysis of said corresponding attributes of said groups of pixels;

(c) determining to activate said built-in flash unit based on said analysis; and

(d) determining an intensity of said built-in flash unit based on said analysis.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the face detection technique uses haar classifiers.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising an initial step of calculating image attributes on an entire said acquired digital image and comparing said image attributes to said image attributes said group of pixels.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, said image attributes comprising exposure.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, said exposure being calculated as a function of one or more parameters including aperture, speed, gain, or relative sensitivity, or combinations thereof.

36. (New) A method of perfecting the exposure of acquired digital images using face detection in recited in claim 31, said groups of pixels of faces being given a certain weight based on weight criteria, the weight criteria selected from the group of weight criteria consisting of relative sizes of said groups of pixels, a distance of said groups of

pixels to the device, and combinations thereof.

37. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising performing a pre-flash based on said calculated flash intensity to determine whether said analysis is accurate.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising performing a second analysis based on said pre-flash.